



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes, Dec. 2010

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
DECEMBER 7, 2010 MEETING
accepted as amended, Jan. 4, 2011

SPY POND COMMITTEE
Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Brad Barber, Bill Eykamp, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Gail McCormick, Bob & Harriet Noyes, Steve Ricci, Stroker Rogovin, Dick Terry.

Facilitator: Steve Ricci **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

Next meeting: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 4, 2011, Town Hall Annex, First Floor.

- **Sandbar:** Steve asked the Dean of Engineering at Tufts if sandbar removal planning could be a student design project. She seems receptive but this is the wrong time to approach the students since they are now into exams. The Friends of Spy Pond Park support removing the sandbar. Steve will ask the Town Engineer what permits would be required.
- **Water sampling:** MyRWA is planning to expand its sampling activities, and Karen Grossman, FSPP president and MyRWA board member, suggested that we should apply for having Spy Pond become a sampling location; FSPP would support us. Bill Eykamp pointed out that the sampling done by MyRWA includes things that are not a problem for Spy Pond, such as dissolved oxygen. He will discuss with MyRWA and Gerry Smith of ACT what data would be useful for Spy Pond. For swimmability the bacterial count is important but it varies with the proximity of waterfowl!
- **Fertilizer flyer:** Dick Terry distributed samples of last spring's flyer to get everyone thinking whether anything should be changed other than announcements for 2011. The flyer is usually distributed in early April, too late to announce the EcoFest on March 26, but it could be a handout item at the EcoFest if ready by then. The invitation for Trails Day on May 7 should be revised to point out "what's in it" for volunteers.
- **Phragmites:** Dead stalks can be cut starting December 8; Brad has a letter to notify abutters. Spy Pond Committee must make sure seedheads are removed for incineration from the reeds on Elizabeth Island. How to get volunteers – advertise in the *Advocate*? Reverse 911? Dead stalks that were sprayed in 2009 and not cut have mostly fallen by now.
- Brad consulted New England Wetland Plants about **seeds**. Their most expensive mixture is for areas that are under water most of the time; they have two less expensive mixtures for less wet conditions. Kelwyn Manor Park has a really wet area that will need seeding, but Elizabeth Island is drier. The latest recommendation for seeding is to do it in the spring.
- The **warrant article** is ready but the amount to ask for is still uncertain. The article calls for a report on the status of the fund from the Town Manager.
- Joey reported that Christine Connelly wants to have **goose eggs addled** at the Res and McClennen Park too. She is planning a workshop for potential volunteers, probably in February, and wants help from experienced addlers.
- **Possible speaker on fish:** Karsten Hartel says we need to check with Mass. Fish & Wildlife about what's in the pond and what if anything is being stocked.
- Sustainable Arlington is planning a series of **films on water issues** and would welcome suggestions for suitable films.
- Bullet point for the **census survey**: "Promoting habitat-sensitive recreational use of the pond."
- Bill Eykamp reported that FSPP is trying to get a **no-wake bylaw** passed and we should establish our position on this issue before Town Meeting begins. Some questions: What is a wake – 5"? How can it be measured "in the field" so that the law can be enforced? Could finding a way to measure be a project for a high school science class? How high are the natural waves in the pond and how much erosion do they cause vs. erosion from wakes? Steve suggested that existing bylaws are probably adequate but aren't being enforced. Bylaw proponents claim they don't want to interfere with the rowing program but a bylaw would probably do just that. It is the general feeling that if the general public is to support the maintenance of the pond with effort and dollars, they should be able to use it. Proponents, Joe Connelly of Park & Rec, and some rowers will be invited to the January meeting – Jane will do.

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